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## **Studio Tour Gears Up for Two Weekends**

*Reprinted with permission from The Wake Weekly*

**O**ne weekend of artists opening up their homes to the public wasn't enough, so this year there are two. Lauri Arntsen and Robin Hendricks are co-chairs for this year's Area Artists' Studio Tour. After compiling feedback from last year's artists and visitors, the studio tour committee decided for all the work they did, they might as well open up their studios for two weekends.

"Because so much work goes into creating new work for the tour and organizing it, and the time commitment for artists ... it made sense to extend it," Arntsen said.

This year's studio tour is scheduled for the weekends of Sept. 15-16 and Sept. 22-23.

The opening reception is Friday, Sept. 14, at the Sunflower Gallery and Studio on Jones Street downtown. The reception is during Art After Hours, from 5-9 p.m.

"It's a good opportunity to see samples of each artists' work and meet the artists," Arntsen said.

Arntsen got the idea to extend the tour from Orange County, which holds its studio tour for two weekends. Arntsen said advertising costs also played into the decision.

"It's also for the public," she said. "Because there's more time, they can see more studios."

Arntsen said the brochures for this year's tour have also been improved and will be featured in *The Wake Weekly* later this month.

"We've also got more artists this year than ever before," Arntsen said.

The tour has between 32 and 35 artists featured this year.

"Half of them are new," Arntsen said. "We've been looking for new artists to add. Some of them moved from north Raleigh to come here and be a part of our tour."

"I'm really excited about the new artists on board," she said. "They're very accomplished professionals who have always been interested in art and now they're on the tour and will open up their talent in a new way."

One of the new artists works in fused glass and another does wood-turning and furniture-making.

"I'm really excited. I think it will be the best yet, and next year will be even better," she said.

The stops on this year's studio tour will also be less spread out, though there are still some featured artists in Louisburg.

The Area Artists' Studio Tour was started in 1995 by Janet Rose, Donna Slade, Jim Bell and others.

"This whole studio tour is run by volunteers and sponsorships," Arntsen said.

For more information on the studio tour, visit [www.artistsstudiotor.com](http://www.artistsstudiotor.com).

*Article originally printed in Aug. 9 issue of The Wake Weekly.*

## WHAT'S NEW

# Theatre Maniacs Bring Theatre to Wake Forest

Reprinted with permission from *The Wake Weekly*

**A**lready the energy director for town projects like next year's 10-day Herb Fest and the community gardens, Joe O'Keefe is taking on another chore. He's forming the Theatre Maniacs.

With a Broadway musical review already scheduled for Oct. 4 - 6 at Franklin Academy, O'Keefe has hired Wake Forest-Rolesville High grad Koko Thornton as director and McCrae Hardy as musical director.

Hardy worked as the music director for N.C. Theatre until a year ago.

"People have been driving me crazy about getting this thing going," O'Keefe said.

O'Keefe has collaborated with people who once worked with the Road Less Traveled Theater Company, making sure he doesn't miss a beat in starting Theatre Maniacs.

"People with Road Less Traveled had a great experience, and that's what I'm all about," O'Keefe said.

But for the theater company's first show, O'Keefe wants to bring theater in Wake Forest to a new level.

"We'd like to be in position where we can do

larger musicals eventually, but our first show will be a review of Broadway songs," O'Keefe said.

O'Keefe said participants will be required to sing one of the songs scheduled for the show when auditions are held Sept. 10 and 11.

"When people audition, if they sing one song better than the other, we'll consider using that song instead," O'Keefe said. "We'll be flexible with voices, highlighting the talent of the people choosing to get involved."

"The nice thing about a review is everybody doesn't have to come to every rehearsal," he said.

"We're going to organize an evening of solid entertainment," O'Keefe added.

The show will focus on the talent featured in the show so there will be no overpowering, fancy set.

"I hope to get people from all over the Triangle," O'Keefe said. "What's attractive is we can put this thing up in three weeks."

There is a participation fee for the actors and actresses who are cast in the show: \$50 for individuals; \$75 for a family.

The cost will help the theater company start and also generate funds for the next show.

Ticket revenue from the first Theatre Maniacs' production will also go toward upcoming shows.

O'Keefe said eventually, actors won't have to pay the participation fee.

"We're not entirely not-for-profit because we don't want to be in a situation where we have to lean on grants, etceteras, to survive," O'Keefe said.

O'Keefe said the Theatre Maniacs will present four shows this year, each time surveying actors and audiences for what they liked and didn't like.

"We're not trying to set up a business," he said. "We want Theatre Maniacs to make money so we can do more shows, but I'm not trying to stuff my pockets with loot."

"My goal is to do a review, get a show that's successful and financially viable. New ideas are like meetings," he said. "The best part is the intentions. This idea is well-intended, so the marketing for this has to be just right to get the people to the show."

Because of the way auditions will be held, there will be no need for callbacks.

"We're looking for adults and young adults who want to get out and sing," O'Keefe said. "If someone doesn't sing but

wants to be involved, bring in a monologue and we'll find a place for you. There's a lot of talent in this area. We're looking to cast ages 14 and up, but will eventually do kids' programs."

O'Keefe said he's hoping for a cast of around 35 to 40, and possibly up to 50.

He is also seeking volunteers for the stage crew.

"I am genuine and I want to have this happen," O'Keefe said. "We have to deliver. People who do this are passionate about theater; they're even maniacal about it, and that's where I got the name Theatre Maniacs."

Auditions are Sept. 10 and 11, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at a location to be determined. Notification of casting will be sent by e-mail on Sept. 13.

A cast meeting will follow on Sept. 15 from 10 to 11 a.m. Rehearsals begin Sept. 17 and run until Sept. 27, from 7 to 9 p.m. Tech week begins Oct. 1, and the first performance is set for Oct. 4.

To find out more information about auditioning for the Theatre Maniacs' upcoming show, visit [theatremaniacs.com](http://theatremaniacs.com).

*Article originally printed in Aug. 9 issue of The Wake Weekly.*

# **WFCAA Logo Designed by Reporter/Designer Extraordinaire**

## **By Eren Tataragasi**

When I talked with WFCAA vice president Gail Joyner in July about coming up with a new logo for the organization, my first thought was to doodle my own ideas. After several rough sketches I had the vision for what I wanted but I needed the expertise to make it look official.

So I turned to the only person I knew I could count on - Tommy Kopetskie, sports and general news writer and graphic designer at *The Wake Weekly*. Fortunately for me, Tommy had the skill and the creativity needed to make the logo something special and in no time, the new Cultural Arts logo was born.

And it was a beauty.

The idea behind my original sketch was to make sure our logo encompassed all of the arts — visual, written and performance. Tommy took the sketch and turned it into something professional and wonderful that I hope the organization can use for some time.

Tommy came to *The Wake Weekly* in February after spending two and a half years at *The Brunswick Beacon*. He graduated from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania in 2004 with a degree in communications/journalism. He has been an amazing addition to the staff of *The Wake Weekly* and a great asset to the Wake Forest Cultural Arts Association.



## **Special Art After Hours - September 14**

September 14 is shaping up to be an event-filled night in downtown Wake Forest. The Old Magnolia Trading Company will host a reading from Durham Novelist Robert Wallace who will read from his new novel, *A Hold on Time*, 2007. The Event will feature door prizes, refreshments and a themed-basket raffle to benefit the North Wake Senior Center's Arts & Crafts Department.

Wallace is a previous recipient of North Carolina arts Council & Durham ARTS Council grants. He has published stories in the Raleigh *News & Observer*, *The Bryant Literary Review*, and The O. Henry Festival stories.

This will also be the night of the opening reception and preview party for The Wake Forest Area Artists' Studio Tour at the Sunflower Studio and Gallery. The night will feature artists from North Wake Senior Center and Wake Forest muralist Dan Russell. For more information, visit [www.artistsstudiotour.com](http://www.artistsstudiotour.com).

## **Autumn Arts Festival October 13**

The 4th Annual Autumn Arts Festival will be held in historic downtown Wake Forest on Saturday, October 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mark your calendars and plan to bring the family for an art and music filled event.

Over 30 local artists are expected to show off their craft in jewelry, photography, painting, pottery, fiber arts and more. For more information, contact Tina Archer at the DRC, [tina@wakeforestdowntown.com](mailto:tina@wakeforestdowntown.com).

## **Special Thanks...**

As this year's president of the Wake Forest Cultural Arts Association, I would just like to extend a big 'Thank You' to Kathryn Spiegel, the outgoing president. She is a wonderful asset to this organization and I am so happy to have her as my friend, supporter and mentor. If it wasn't for her I probably would have never gotten so involved in Cultural Arts. And thank goodness that although she's left her post as president she is NOT leaving cultural arts.

I just know, personally, I would be lost without her. So thanks!

- Eren Tataragasi

# YES!

I would like to support cultural arts in Wake Forest!

## Membership Benefits

As a member of the Wake Forest Cultural Arts Association, you will receive our monthly newsletter, along with notices of classes and special events, and discounts on classes. Membership entitles you to an invitation to members-only functions which include special concerts and artists' receptions. Members investing \$100 or more annually will be recognized on all printed programs and newsletters.

## Investment Options (*choose one*)

Individual/Family	\$25	Patron	\$500 +
Benefactor	\$250 - \$499	Event Sponsor	
Sponsor	\$100 - \$249		

Membership dues are annual. The membership runs from July 1 to June 30. All dues are tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to:  
Wake Forest Cultural Arts Association, PO Box 528, Wake Forest, NC 27588

## Member Information

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Member Name

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Street Address

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City, State, Zip

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Home Phone

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Email Address

The Wake Forest Cultural Arts Association is supported by grants from the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County with funds from the Grassroots Arts Program of the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency; the Town of Wake Forest; TARGET STORIES; and the United Arts Campaign.

